

A NEW SPECIES OF *LYGOSOMA* FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

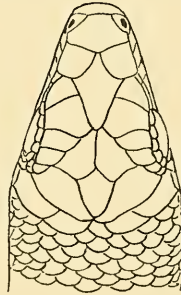
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(One Text-figure.)

[Read 27th March, 1929.]

LYGOSOMA (*LIOLEPISMA*) *WEEKESAE*, n. sp.

Description.—The distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb is contained once and one-third in the distance between the axilla and the groin. Snout short, obtuse. Lower eyelid with a transparent disk which is smaller than the eye but larger than the ear opening; the latter has small but distinct lobules. Nostril pierced in the nasal. No supranasal. Frontal a little shorter than the interparietal and frontoparietals combined, and in contact with the first supraocular. Frontonasal broader than long, forming a straight suture with the rostral and just touching the frontal. The suture between the rostral and the frontonasal narrower than the frontal shield. Four supraoculars, the second much the largest.



Lygosoma (Liolepisma) weekesae, n. sp.
Holotype, R9745, Australian Museum.
Mt. Kosciusko, 5,500 feet, R. Helms, 1889.

Five or six supraciliaries. Frontoparietals paired, longer than the interparietal. Parietals forming a short suture on the median line. Two pairs of nuchal shields. The scales on the nape and neck are irregularly arranged in 12 to 14 rows between the ears. The sixth or seventh upper labial enters the orbit. There are from 40 to 44 scales round the body, those on the dorsal surface being somewhat irregularly arranged, the dorsals are largest, and the laterals are very much smaller than the ventrals. The scales on the dorsal line are not larger than the adjoining scales. The preanals are only slightly enlarged. The adpressed limbs overlap; the digits are cylindrical, and there are from 20 to 23 lamellae under the fourth toe.

Colour (in spirits).—Brown above, covered with light spots which are arranged in more or less distinct, longitudinal lines. There is a light line from the tip of the snout extending over the eye and along the latero-dorsal area to where it joins its fellow on the base of the tail. Another line extends from the ear to the groin. The underparts are uniformly yellowish-white.

Size.—Holotype, total length, 115 mm.; snout to ear, 11 mm.; width of head, 8 mm.; body, 50 mm.; tail, 65 mm.; fore limb, 17 mm.; hind limb, 20 mm.

Holotype in the Australian Museum, Registered No. R.9745, from Mount Kosciusko, 5,500 feet, collected by R. Helms, May, 1889.

Distribution.—The specimens examined are from the following localities: Two, an adult and young, from 5,500 feet, Mount Kosciusko, collected by R. Helms in May, 1889 (the adult has been made the holotype). One adult from Jenolan, Blue Mountains, collected by R. Etheridge, November, 1895. One adult from Bombala, Snowy Mountains, no other data.

It would appear that this species is restricted to the highlands of New South Wales and Victoria, as Bombala is not very far from the border.

Affinities.—*Lygosoma weekesae* is more closely related to *L. entrecasteauxi* than to any other species, though the colour and markings suggest *L. pretiosum*, under which name the Museum specimens were registered. *L. pretiosum* is probably restricted to Tasmania and the neighbouring islands, the Australian mainland records evidently having been founded on incorrectly named specimens. The following table will show the characters by which *L. weekesae* has been separated from *L. entrecasteauxi*.

<i>L. weekesae.</i>	<i>L. entrecasteauxi.</i>
Scales in 40 to 44 rows.	Scales in 28 to 32 rows.
Ear with distinct lobules.	Ear without lobules.
Two pairs of nuchals.	Three or more pairs of nuchals.
12 to 14 irregular rows of scales between the ears.	8 regular rows of scales between the ears.
Dorsal scales irregular, central row not enlarged.	Dorsal scales regular, central row enlarged.
Rostral forms a straight suture with frontonasal.	Rostral forms a curved suture with frontonasal.

I have named the species after its discoverer, Miss H. Claire Weekes, B.Sc., Linnean Macleay Fellow in Zoology who, while working at the placental structures, called my attention to the wide differences that existed between the New South Wales specimens (thought to be *L. pretiosum*) and the Tasmanian forms.

Note.—Since writing the above, Miss Weekes has been able to secure six additional specimens from the Jenolan District, which have been submitted to me alive. It is pleasing to note that none of them varies in the slightest from my description except as regards colour. The ground colour in life is blackish-brown above and whitish below, while the markings already described are pale chocolate. The iridescent sheen, so common to some other species of *Lygosoma*, is absent in *L. weekesae*.—J.R.K.